

ABSTRACT

DISSERTATION/THESIS/RESEARCH PAPER/CREATIVE PROJECT: Bringing the University to the Community: An Examination of Ball State University Partnership with the City of Muncie

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DATE: July, 2010

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Universities are not only large job generators that contribute to the general economic health of the city, but they also have the capacity and resources to intervene to stabilize and revitalize the city's neighbourhoods. Until relatively recently, most universities and the cities in which they exist went about their business without taking full stock of what each meant to the other. Our hometown of Muncie, Indiana might not exist today without the economic spinoffs from the Ball State University. Even though Ball State plays a large part in the Muncie community as a major employer, it has been a wide critique that the university involvement in the city development is poor. Many universities have local partnerships through which we can find new ways to apply our intellectual and financial resources toward the transformation of our hometown Muncie. This paper is an attempt to translate the lessons I learnt into action.